



The Message

Issue 272

November 2009

Mount Rainier Mixed-Use Town Center (M-U-TC) Zone Development Plan Community Events announcement

The Prince George's County Planning Department of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission is looking to engage YOU, residents, and business owners of Mount Rainier in updating the 1994 *Approved Mount Rainier Mixed-Use Town Center (M-U-TC) Zone Development Plan*. All are invited to participate as we discuss future plans for revising development policies and design standards.

Come join us and share your vision for Mount Rainier!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community Workshop #3: Work-In-Progress Presentation

Presentation of Design Ideas

Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2009

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Community Workshop #4: Feedback Session #1

Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

***Note:** All community meetings will be held at the Bunker Hill Fire Station, 3712 Utah Avenue, Brentwood, MD 20722.

For more information please visit the project website www.pgplanning.org/Mount-Rainier.

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Mount Rainier Autumn Festival

Please join us in celebrating the community of Mount Rainier this November 7th! The Autumn Festival will bring together community members, local businesses, community organizations, and government offices to:

- Promote local small businesses;
- Share information about community organizations & services; and
- Have a good time, of course.

When: Saturday, November 7th - 10:00am to 5:00pm
Where: 34th Street, between Bunker Hill Road and Shepherd Street

If you are a local musician or artist and would like to perform at the festival, or if you want to know how your business or organization can participate, please write to MR.AutumnFestival@gmail.com or call (503)516-6672.

We look forward to seeing you on the 24th!

MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL E. SCOTT, CHIEF OF POLICE

Protecting Yourself from Phishing

What is Phishing? According to the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT), Phishing is an attempt by an individual or group to solicit personal information from unsuspecting users by employing social engineering techniques. Phishing emails are created to appear as if they have been sent from a legitimate organization, or known individual. These emails often attempt to entice users to click on a link that will take the user to a fraudulent website that appears legitimate. The user then may be asked to provide personal information such as account usernames and passwords that can further expose them to future compromises. Additionally, these fraudulent web sites may contain malicious code.

Common Phrasing used in Phishing Scams: Extreme Urgency: Phishing attacks often use some urgent time-frame in order to increase the chance you'll respond. They might, for example, state that you need to login "within 24 hours" or "by Thursday at 12:00 a.m."

Account Restrictions: Many attacks will claim that access to your account has been (or soon will be) closed. They use phrasing such as "to restore access to your account" or "to prevent your account from being closed."

Security Issues: Ironically, attacks often refer to a security threat or breach. Some will explain that you need to log in to update your security settings. Others may urge you to download and install a "security update" that is really a keylogger or other form of malicious software.

Bonuses or Promotions: Some attacks will claim that you've won a bonus or special promotion. This may take the form of a cash bonus or a free upgrade to a premium account of some sort. Of course, you have to log in to claim your prize.

How to Report Phishing Scams: When forwarding phishing messages, always include the entire original email with its original header information intact. Forward the email to APWG at: reportphishing@antiphishing.org; forward the email to the Federal Trade Commission at spam@uce.gov; forward the email to the company, bank, or organization impersonated in the phishing email. Check organization website for how to report problems. Notify the Internet Crime Complaint Center of the FBI by filing a complaint on their website: www.ic3.gov/.

How to Avoid Phishing Scams

- Be suspicious of any email with urgent requests for personal financial information. Check with your bank if you are unsure of the authenticity of any email. Additionally, avoid filling out forms in email messages that ask for personal financial information. Only

communicate information such as credit card numbers or account information via a secure website or the telephone.

- Don't use the links in an email, instant message, or chat to get to any web page, especially if you do not know the sender, or question the authenticity of the email. Rather, contact the company by phone, or log directly onto their website by typing the Web address into the browser.
- Always ensure that you're using a secure website when submitting credit card or other sensitive information via your Web browser. Since phishers are able to replicate secure Web server imagery such as https:// and the yellow lock, directly type the Web address into your browser, or click on the yellow lock to check the security certificate. If the address of the site you have displayed does NOT match the certificate, do not continue.
- Install a Web browser toolbar to help protect you from known fraudulent websites. These toolbars match where you are going with lists of known phisher Web sites and will alert you.
- Regularly log into online accounts to check activity. Avoid time lapses of over a month between checks.
- Regularly check your bank, credit and debit card statements to ensure that all transactions are legitimate. If anything is suspicious, or you do not recognize a transaction, contact your bank and all card issuers.
- Ensure that your browser is up to date and security patches are applied.

Source: Tennessee Fusion Center

Thanksgiving Safety Tips

Most of us tend to ignore or forget what Thanksgiving is really all about.

Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks for all the blessings that we've been given; not just feasting on the fruits of the Earth or the fruits of holiday parades and football games brought to you in high definition! It is a day to gather with friends and loved ones and celebrate our blessings; a time to voice the love and respect felt for everyone and everything; and to thank God for the blessings and challenges He brings to our lives.

You might also want to offer a word of thanks to a 19th Century magazine editor, Sarah Josepha Hale. It was Sarah's editorials and letter writing campaign that almost singlehandedly prompted Congress to pass, and President Abraham Lincoln to sign into law, a bill making the last Thursday in November our national holiday of Thanksgiving. To learn more about Sarah and her voice in history go to:

<http://www.womenwriters.net/domesticgoddess/hale1.html>

With planning a little common sense, you can ensure that tragedy does not come between you and a festive holiday. Follow these safety reminders to help you and your loved ones have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Safety At Home

- Keep your family and overnight guests safe with a working smoke detector on every level of the house, in every bedroom, and in the halls adjacent to the bedrooms. Test smoke detectors monthly and replace batteries at least twice a year.
- Overnight guests should be instructed on the fire escape plan and designated meeting place for your home.
- Have a fire extinguisher available not more than 10 feet from the stove, on the exit side of the room. A 2 ½ lb. class ABC multi-purpose dry chemical extinguisher is recommended. Know how to use your fire extinguisher.
- Start holiday cooking with a clean stove and oven.
- Keep the kitchen off-limits to young children and adults that are not helping with food preparation. You've heard the expression, "Too many cooks spoil the broth." Well, too many cooks cause kitchen mishaps!
- When cooking, do not wear clothing with loose sleeves or dangling jewelry. The clothing can catch on fire and the jewelry can catch on pot handles, causing spills and burns.

- Cook on the back burners when possible and turn pot handles in so they don't extend over the edge of the stove.
- Never leave cooking unattended. If you must leave the kitchen while cooking, turn off the stove or have someone else watch what is being cooked.
- Keep Thanksgiving decorations and kitchen clutter away from sources of direct heat.
- Candles are often part of holiday decorations. Candles should never be left burning when you are away from home, or after going to bed. Candles should be located where children will not be tempted to play with them, and where guests will not accidentally brush against them. The candleholder should be completely noncombustible and difficult to knock over. The candle should not have combustible decorations around it.
- If you allow smoking inside your home, provide guests with large, deep ashtrays and check them frequently. After guests leave, check inside and under upholstery and in trashcans for cigarette butts that may be smoldering.
- Keep an eye on guests who are drinking alcohol. If you feel they have had too much to drink, refuse to allow them to have additional alcohol. It's your house – you make the rules! When it's time for them to leave call them a cab or get a sober driver to take them home. If they don't heed your advice call the police. Don't let your friends drink and drive! Always celebrate responsibly! Be educated and make informed decisions after drinking and help your friends and loved ones make them too.

Safety While Traveling:

- Plan ahead to avoid a bumpy road.
- Allow extra time in your travel schedule. Bad traffic can often be avoided with a little preparation. The heaviest travel days are usually before and after Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Consider taking an extra day off so that you aren't stuck in the pack.
- Make sure cars are well equipped for travel. Breaking down in the dark, in bad weather or in the cold can crush the holiday spirit. It's a good idea to take the car in for a winter "check-up." A mechanic can inspect the antifreeze, battery, windshield wipers and other cold-weather components. Make sure that the tire pressure is at recommended levels, as tires can be hazardous in wet weather when they are not inflated properly.
- Think before you drive. The highways are a community. As much as we may want to think we are isolated in our steel and glass bubbles, driving is really a social interaction without words. To understand holiday driving conditions, think of the way people act outside of their cars in this time of year. Many are worried, preoccupied, hurried, distracted and all those states of mind that make them easily agitated and less careful. On the road, this means that everyone should be more vigilant than usual, give people more distance and be forgiving when someone does something rash or absent-minded. Avoid confrontations, and try not to let other drivers bring you out of the happy holiday zone.
- Ease on down the road. Don't think of driving as a chore. Consider traveling to be part of the vacation and try to find ways to enjoy the time you spend driving.
- Carry equipment for on-the-road emergencies. If traveling in bad weather or in snow country, prepare for problems by packing flares, blankets, a first-aid kit, flashlight, water and snacks. It's useful to have a shovel to dig out the wheels in case you get stuck, and a bag of kitty litter to pour under the wheels for traction. Also remember to pack the cell phone for emergencies, but be prudent about using it while driving in holiday traffic or in bad weather.
- Drive responsibly! Once you get on the road, drive carefully and at a speed appropriate to traffic conditions. It's the time of year when to-do lists can run long, and we all have places where we would much rather be than on the road, but a defensive approach pays off in the long run. Don't drink and drive. Be aware of your physical and legal limits and the potential dangers of intoxicated drivers who may have celebrated too much.
 - Bring sufficient money for gas, and plan to take extra emergency money for unexpected problems.
 - Call your parents/family members and let them know when you are leaving and when they should expect you to arrive. If you are delayed for any reason, let them know you'll be late.
 - If you should have car problems, pull as far off the roadway as possible, activate the emergency flashers, stay in your car, raise the hood and place a handkerchief or cloth out of the window to alert police that you need assistance.
 - Remember that road conditions can change quickly and without warning. Wet road surfaces can become very slick and cause your vehicle to hydroplane or slide. If the roads are wet, remember to reduce your speed.
 - Avoid aggressive drivers and aggressive driving. Don't follow too closely, and always try to leave a large safety cushion between your vehicle and vehicles around you.

- o Get plenty of rest before you travel and avoid distractions while driving. Talking on a cell phone, driving without sufficient rest and other distractions can greatly reduce your reaction time if you need to slow down or stop quickly.
- o Respect the speed limits and traffic laws, and leave your headlights on even in the daytime.
- o Make sure you and all of your passengers wear a seatbelt, and that children under the age of 16 are secured in an approved, properly installed child safety seat or seatbelt. For information about Maryland's child safety seat laws please visit the Maryland State Highway Administration's web site at:
<http://www.sha.state.md.us/safety/oots/trafficsignalsandlaws/childpas.asp>

September 2009 Selected Offenses by Team Policing Area

Date	Offense	Location				TPA
17-Sep-09	B & E - Residential	3300	BL	CHILLUM	RD	1A
12-Sep-09	B & E - Residential	3200	BL	UPSHUR	ST	1A
05-Sep-09	B & E - Residential	3000	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
05-Sep-09	B & E - Residential	4000	BL	36TH	ST	1A
25-Sep-09	Stolen Vehicle	3300	BL	BUCHANAN	ST	1A
13-Sep-09	Stolen Vehicle	3200	BL	CHILLUM	RD	1A
06-Sep-09	Theft - From Auto	4100	BL	34TH	ST	1A
05-Sep-09	Theft - Vehicle Tags	3300	BL	BUCHANAN	ST	1A
04-Sep-09	Theft < 500	3000	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
16-Sep-09	Theft > 500	3300	BL	BUCHANAN	ST	1A
18-Sep-09	Vandalism to Auto	3500	BL	BUNKER HILL	RD	1A
16-Sep-09	Vandalism to Auto		BL	CHILLUM	RD	1A
11-Sep-09	Vandalism to Auto	3300	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
15-Sep-09	B & E - Residential	3500	BL	OTIS	ST	1B
10-Sep-09	B & E - Residential	3700	BL	37TH	ST	1B
16-Sep-09	B & E - Residential	3100	BL	UPSHUR	ST	2A
02-Sep-09	B & E - Residential	4200	BL	30TH	ST	2A
02-Sep-09	B & E - Residential	4200	BL	29TH	ST	2A
20-Sep-09	Robbery - Citizen	4200	BL	28TH	ST	2A
16-Sep-09	Robbery - Citizen		BL	30TH	ST	2A
14-Sep-09	Robbery - Citizen	4300	BL	RUSSELL	AV	2A
13-Sep-09	Robbery - Citizen	2700	BL	ARUNDEL	RD	2A
07-Sep-09	Robbery - Citizen	4200	BL	RUSSELL	AV	2A
04-Sep-09	Robbery - Commercial	4100	BL	KAYWOOD	PL	2A
29-Sep-09	Stolen Vehicle	2700	BL	ALLISON	ST	2A
25-Sep-09	Stolen Vehicle	4100	BL	RUSSELL	AV	2A
23-Sep-09	Stolen Vehicle	4400	BL	28TH	PL	2A
05-Sep-09	Theft - From Auto	4400	BL	28TH	PL	2A
21-Sep-09	Theft < 500	2300	BL	VARNUM	ST	2A
28-Sep-09	Vandalism	4300	BL	EASTERN	AV	2A
08-Sep-09	Vandalism	2500	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	2A
26-Sep-09	Vandalism to Auto	4200	BL	RUSSELL	AV	2A
17-Sep-09	Vandalism to Auto	4100	BL	RUSSELL	AV	2A
16-Sep-09	Vandalism to Auto	2900	BL	ARUNDEL	RD	2A

16-Sep-09	Vandalism to Auto	4200	BL	30TH	ST	2A
04-Sep-09	Assault - Aggravated	3300	BL	PERRY	ST	2B
15-Sep-09	B & E - Residential	3000	BL	TAYLOR	ST	2B
08-Sep-09	Property Damage		BL	33RD	ST	2B
06-Sep-09	Theft - From Auto		BL	SHEPHERD	ST	2B
05-Sep-09	Vandalism	3200	BL	BUNKER HILL	RD	2B
08-Sep-09	Vandalism to Auto	3200	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	2B



MRTV

Mount Rainier Television
Comcast Channel 71 Verizon Channel 21

What you need to know...What you want to know... Watch **MRTV** for the latest in City News, Information, and Updates!

MRTV now provides a 24/7 programming schedule. Watch for the daily [Program Guide](#) for a list shows and times. This month watch for the following:

On Air with the Mayor "LIVE" - Hosted by Mayor Malinda Miles. "2010 Census", Thursday, November 5, 2009, at 7pm - 8pm. Join Mayor Miles with guest, Census Bureau Regional Director Fernando Armstrong. Ask the Questions...Get the Answers Call-In your questions, comments concerns during the show 301-985-6585 or join the studio audience.

CitiScope – hosted by **City Manager Jeannelle Wallace and Assistant City Manager Michael Jackson**, City Department Updates from City Hall, the Police Department, Public Works and more. **"City Trash Update"** Guests: **Public Works Department Michael Barnes and Charles Stewart**.

CitiScope – **"Residential and Business Code Enforcement Information"**.

Graffiti Gone – **Police Chief Michael Scott and Captain James Stoots** remove rooftop graffiti.

Corn Bin Dedication – October 10, 2009 ceremony featuring speakers and highlights
LIVE Programs – 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, **City Council Meetings and Work Sessions** – 7pm

The **2010 Census Show** scheduled for this month's **On Air with the Mayor** will be Thursday November 5, 2009. This will be a **Call-In show, 301-985-6585**, and have a **studio audience**. **If you have questions about the 2010 Census and would like to be in the audience, RSVP to MRTV for show details. Call 301-985-6585 ext. 28. Leave name, address and phone number.**

. MRTV is looking for video and media production college students to volunteer for credit or experience. We need producers, writers, researchers, reporters, Final Cut Pro Editors, and studio personnel

Monthly City Council Meetings and Work Sessions are available on the City's website: www.mountrainiermd.org

MRTV comments, suggestions and show ideas: mrtvchannel71@yahoo.com or call 301-985-6585 ext. 28 voice mail, Graciela Carbonell, Department Director

What are the symptoms of swine flu (also known as 2009 H1N1 Virus)?

The symptoms of swine flu are similar to regular seasonal influenza and include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite and coughing. Some have also reported runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

How is swine flu spread?

In humans, swine flu is thought to spread the same way as seasonal flu—primarily through person-to-person transmission when an individual infected with the virus coughs or sneezes.

What can I do to protect myself and others?

- Cover your nose and mouth with tissue when you cough or sneeze. Dispose of the tissue immediately.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Try to avoid contact with sick people.
- If you are sick, the Centers for Disease Control recommend that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- Practice good health habits.

Where can I find more information?

- PandemicFlu.gov
U.S. Government resources and information regarding swine, avian, and pandemic influenza.
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
Updated information and resources.
- [World Health Organization](#)
Current pandemic threat level and alerts.
- [Maryland Government Flu Preparedness](#)

CITY SEEKS COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Our committees need you! Several of our committees are in need of members. I am sure that there is a committee in our City that maybe of interest to you and their meeting schedules are sure to fit your schedule. If you are interested in becoming a member of a committee in our city please feel free to contact Michael Jackson, assistant city manager at City Hall at 3014-985-6585 extension 30, to find out more information about the following committees:

- Tool Shed Committee
- Youth and Recreation Council
- Bike Coop (volunteers)

TREE COMMISSIONERS NEEDED

Openings exist on the city's Tree Commission. The Commissioners review permits for trimming and removal of street trees and trees in the city-owned parks. They also help choose what trees to be planted in the available locations, plan Arbor Day events, and help raise money for tree purchases through grant writing. If you are interested in serving, please forward a letter of

interest and/or resume to City Manager, Jeannelle Wallace, City Hall, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, 20712. Or e-mail her at jwallace@mountrainiermd.org.

2009 Curbside Leaf Schedule

Area 1

Rake Leaves Out by Nov 1 for Collection Nov. 3—19

3800-4600 30th Street
3800-4500 31st Street
3700 34th Street
3700 35th Street
3700 36th Street
3500—3800 37th Street
3400—3600 Eastern Ave.
3500 37th Street
3400-3700 Perry Street
Wells Avenue
Newton Street
Oak Lane
4000—4200 28th Street
4000—4500 29th Street
2800—3300 Shepherd Street
2800-3200 Taylor Street

Area 2

Rake Leaves Out by Nov 15 for Collection Nov. 17-26

3800-4500 32nd Street
3800-4100 33rd Street
3100-3300 Perry Street
2900-3300 Bunker Hill Road
Rainier Avenue
2800-3200 Upshur Street
3100-3200 Varnum Street
3100 Webster Street
3100 Windom Road
3100-3200 Arundel Road
3800-4500 34th Street
3800-4000 35th Street
4000 36th Street
4000 37th Street
3400-3700 Bunker Hill Road
3400-3700 Shepherd Street
3400 Taylor Street
3400 Tilden Street

2nd Pick Up Schedule

Area 1

**Rake Leaves Out Nov 29
For Collection Dec 1 –10**

**Area 2
Rake Leaves Out Dec 13
For Collection Dec 15-24**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS RECYCLE AND TRASH COLLECTION NOTICE

All recyclables (aluminum cans, bottles, paper and cardboard) can be put in the same yellow recycle bin which will be picked up Friday of each week. These items will be taken to the County recycle plant as they now have the capability to separate the items.

PUBLIC WORKS CALENDAR

November and December 2009 Schedule

Listed hereunder is the scheduled pick up dates for trash in the City of Mt. Rainier, for November and December 2009

DATE	PARTICULARS	DATE	PARTICULARS
November 2	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up	December 2	Regular Trash Pick Up
November 4	Regular Trash Pick Up	December 4	Recyclables Pick Up
November 6	Recyclables Pick Up	December 7	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558)
November 9	Yard Waste Pick Up	December 9	Regular Trash Pick Up
November 11	Veterans' Day (Public Works and City Hall Closed)	December 11	Recyclables Pick Up
November 12	Regular Trash Pick Up	December 14	Yard Waste Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558)
November 13	Recyclables Pick Up	December 16	Regular Trash Pick Up
November 16	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up	December 18	Recyclables Pick Up
November 18	Regular Trash Pick Up	December 21	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558)
November 20	Recyclables Pick Up	December 23	Regular Trash Pick Up
November 23	Yard Waste Pick Up	December 25	Christmas Day (Public Works and City Hall Closed)
November 25	Regular Trash Pick Up	December 28	
November 26	Thanksgiving Day (Public Works and City Hall Closed)	December 30	Regular Trash Pick Up
November 27	Employee Appreciation Day (Public Works and City Hall Closed)		
November 30	Yard Waste Pick Up		

During the months December - March yard waste will be collected 2nd Monday and by appointment only. All bulk trash appointments must be made before 12 noon on the Friday preceding bulk pick up day